

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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R 261511Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9504

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USUN 513

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1267

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: NO, FI, SF, UN

SUBJECT: NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AT HELSINKI

REF: HELSINKI 0650

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE BRIEFED ME ON MARCH 25 REGARDING THE RECENT NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN HELSINKI. HIS COMMENTS CONTAINED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MEETING NOT COVERED IN REFTEL.

2. NORWEGIANS WERE NOT SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE FINNS CHOSE TO PLAY DOWN THE MORE DRAMATIC ASPECTS OF THE REYKJAVIK NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING AND ACCORDINGLY DID NOT FORMALLY DISCUSS SUCH CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS AS THAT FOR INCREASED SOVIET COOPERATION WITH SCANDINAVIA.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN MADE AN INTERESTING SPEECH, HOWEVER, AT A DINNER GIVEN FOR THE MINISTERS IN WHICH HE  
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REFERRED TO THE EXTENSIVE "PRIVATE STIRRING AROUND" AT THIS TIME

BY SOCIALIST RATHER THAN THE USUAL BOURGEOIS POLITICANS. IN A CLEAR MOVE TO DISOWN SOCIALIST LEADER SORSA'S PROPOSAL AT REYKJAVIK, KARJALAINEN NOTED POINTLY THAT WHAT COUNTS IS ACTIVITY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID WHICH MIGHT HAMPER NORMAL NORDIC COOPERATION. STATE SECRETARY TUOMINEN (PHONETIC)

LATER CONFIRMED TO VIBE THAT KARJALAINEN HAD SELECTED THIS PARTICULAR PASSAGE FROM A TEXT GIVEN HIM BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, INDICATING THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE MESSAGE. IN A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE INVOLVING ALL THE MINISTERS, KARJALAINEN PARAPHRASED HIS PRIVATE REMARKS, ADDING THAT THERE WAS SCOPE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD FOR AN EXTENSION OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR.

4. AS FAR AS VIBE KNEW, THERE WAS NO SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF THE KEKKONEN PLAN AT THE THE MEETING. DURING THE NORDIC DELEGATION'S STOP OVER IN STOCKHOLM, HOWEVER, SWEDISH STATE SECRETARY THUNBORG REFERRED TO A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN WHICH HE HAD WRITTEN THAT TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ADJACENT TERRITORIES WOULD NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF THE KEKKONEN PLAN; THIS REMARK WAS INTENDED TO KILL FURTHER SOVIET DISCUSSION OF THE PLAN.

5. THE EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THE UN IN THE COMMUNIQUE REPRESENTED AN ATTEMPT VIBE SAID, TO GIVE THE ORGANIZATION A BOOST DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD. IT WAS INTENDED TO BE A TWO PRONG FORM OF PRESSURE; ON ONE HAND ADDRESSED TO THE MODERATES IN THE THIRD WORLD, REMINDING THEM THAT THEY MUST TAKE MINORITY INTERESTS INTO CONSIDERATION; AND ON THE OTHER, URGING INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES NOT TO OVER REACT TO THE DANGERS OF THE "TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY."

6. DISCUSSION OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE UNIVERSALITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP BROUGHT OUT THE FACT THAT THE FINNS ARE MOVING IN THE WRONG WAY, TO ABSTAIN RATHER THAN OPPOSE THE RESOLUTION UP FOR VOTE IN THE UN FAVORING EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA. BECAUSE OF THE SHIFT IN THEIR POSITION, THE FINNS COULD NOT ACCEPT MORE DETAILED WORDING ENDORSING UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP

THEY SAID THEY CONSIDERED ABSTENTION NECESSARY AS A WARNING TO SOUTH AFRICA THAT, AS MUCH AS FINLAND

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FAVORED THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY, IT WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PRESENT SITUATION INDEFINITELY. VIBE STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF THE INFORMATION THAT FINLAND MAY CHANGE ITS VOTE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

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